Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

More than a decade ago, Congress passed the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education (CHGME) program with broad bipartisan support to provide freestanding children’s hospitals with the same federal GME funding that Medicare GME provides to other teaching hospitals. Today, we urge you to maintain this important program, which supports the training of so much of the nation’s pediatric workforce, and to restore the stability of its funding.

We thank the House Committee on Appropriations for its longstanding support of CHGME. We also appreciate the difficult budgetary climate and the pressure to reduce discretionary spending. However, we believe that the plan to eliminate the CHGME program in the President’s FY 2012 budget would be detrimental to our nation’s goals of strengthening the primary care workforce and ensuring timely access to necessary, high-quality specialty care. We are also deeply concerned about the impact of the 15 percent cut in funding for the program following enactment of the final FY 2011 continuing resolution, which turns back the clock on the program by nearly 10 years in terms of federal support at a time when the nation faces a critical shortage of pediatric specialty care.

CHGME is an essential investment in our children’s health care – in prevention and primary care, health care for vulnerable and underserved children, and access to care for all children. More than 40 percent of all general pediatric and pediatric specialty training is provided in the children’s hospitals that receive their federal GME funding through CHGME. In many specialties, such as pediatric surgery, over 65% of physicians are trained at these children’s hospitals. The program has been a major success, enabling children’s hospitals to sustain and grow their teaching programs and to expand the diversity of their training experiences in response to local and national needs. It has accounted for much of the growth in pediatric training overall and expanded children’s access to care.

Although CHGME is a relatively small program, receiving $317.5 million in FY 2010, it is one of our most important investments in strengthening children’s health care in America. Again, we understand that these are tough budgetary times, but what our nation cannot afford is to further jeopardize children’s access to physicians trained to meet their unique needs.
We respectfully request that the Committee continue its history of bipartisan support for the Children’s Hospitals Graduate Medical Education program and include stable funding in the FY 2012 appropriations bills for this vital program.

Sincerely,

AANS/CNS Section on Pediatric Neurological Surgery
Academic Pediatric Association
Akron Children's Hospital
Alameda-Contra Costa Medical Association
All Children's Hospital
American Academy of Otolaryngology—Head and Neck Surgery
American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology (ASPHO)
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Academy of Pediatrics- New Jersey Chapter
American Association of Neurological Surgeons
American Board of Pediatrics
American College of Rheumatology
American Pediatric Society
American Pediatric Surgical Association
American Society of Pediatric Nephrology
American Society of Pediatric Neurosurgeons
American Thoracic Society
Arkansas Children's Hospital
Ascension Health
Association of American Medical Colleges
Association of Medical School Pediatric Department Chairs
Beaumont Children's Hospital
Birmingham Business Alliance
Blank Children's Hospital
Blythedale Children's Hospital
Business Council of Alabama
California Children’s Hospital Association
Catholic Health Association
Children’s Cause for Cancer Advocacy
Children’s Hospital Los Angeles
Children’s Specialty Care Coalition
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Health Care of Atlanta
Children's Hospital & Medical Center, Omaha, Nebraska
Children's Hospital & Research Center Oakland
Children's Hospital Association of Texas
Children's Hospital Boston
Children's Hospital Central California
Children's Hospital Colorado
Children's Hospital Los Angeles
Children's Hospital of Alabama
Children's Hospital of Michigan
Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC
Children's Hospital of Richmond
Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters
Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
Children's Hospital, New Orleans, LA
Children’s Hospitals and Clinics of Minnesota
Children's Medical Center of Dallas
Children's Memorial Hospital, Chicago, Illinois
Children’s Mercy Hospitals and Clinics
Children's National Medical Center
Children's Specialized Hospital, Mountainside, NJ
Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center
College of Medicine, University of Nebraska Medical Center
Conference of Boston Teaching Hospitals
Congress of Neurological Surgeons
Connecticut Children's Medical Center
Cook Children’s Hospital
Creighton University School of Medicine
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation
Dallas Citizens Council
Dallas Regional Chamber (DRC)
Dallas-Fort Worth Hospital Council
Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, a Member of the Seton Healthcare Family
Driscoll Children's Health Plan
East Tennessee Children's Hospital
Eastern Virginia Medical School Department of Pediatrics
Family Voices
Federation of Pediatric Organizations
Florida Association of Children's Hospitals
Georgia Hospital Association
Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare
Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA)
Healthcare Association of New York State
HealthTeacher, Inc.
Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition of Georgia
Intermountain Healthcare Salt Lake City, Utah
Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children
Kennedy Krieger Institute
Kosair Children’s Hospital
LaRabida Children’s Hospital
Le Bonheur Children's Hospital
Lucile Packard Children's Hospital at Stanford
Lupus Research Institute
March of Dimes Foundation
Mary Bridge Children’s Hospital
Medical University of South Carolina Children's Hospital
Methodist Healthcare Ministries
Metro Minnesota Council on Graduate Medical Education
Metropolitan Chicago Healthcare Council
Miami Children's Hospital
Miller Children’s Hospital Long Beach
Minnesota Hospital Association
Missouri Hospital Association
Missouri Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems
Nationwide Children's Hospital
Nationwide Children’s Hospital Sports Medicine Fellowship Program
Nemours
Nemours’ Children’s Hospital
Nemours' Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children
New England Alliance for Children's Health
New Jersey Hospital Association
New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce
Niswonger Children's Hospital Mountain States Health Alliance Johnson City, Tennessee
Ohio Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Oregon Health and Science University
Phoenix Children's Hospital
Pediatrix Medical Group
Prevent Child Abuse Utah Ogden, Utah
Primary Children's Medical Center Salt Lake City, Utah
Rady Children's Hospital San Diego
Regions Hospital
Seattle Children’s Hospital
Silicon Valley Leadership Group
Society for Pediatric Research
St. Christopher’s Hospital for Children
St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital of Tampa
St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital
St. Louis Children's Hospital
St. Vincent’s HealthCare
Teaching Hospitals of Texas
Texas Breastfeeding Coalition
Texas Children’s Hospital
Texas Medical Association
Texas Pediatric Society
Texas State Employees Union/CWA Local 6186
The American Board of Pediatrics
The Children’s Hospital at OU Medical Center
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
The Children's Medical Center of Dayton
The Council of Pediatric Subspecialties
The National Center for Adoption Law & Policy at Capital University Law School
The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
UHA, Utah Hospitals and Health Systems Association Salt Lake City, Utah
University Hospitals Rainbow Babies & Children's Hospital
University of Michigan C. S. Mott Children's Hospital
University of Utah, Department of Pediatrics Salt Lake City, Utah
Utah Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Voices for America's Children
Voices for Georgia’s Children
Voices for Ohio's Children
WI Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Wisconsin Health and Hospital Association